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STAR TREK DISCOVERY ANNUAL

STAR TREK®
DISCOVERY ANNUAL

written by
Kirsten Beyer and **Mike Johnson**

art by
Angel Hernandez

colors by
Mark Roberts

letters by
AndWorld Design

production design by
Neil Uyetake

edits by
Sarah Gaydos

editorial assists by
Chase Marotz

publisher
Greg Goldstein

STAR TREK created by Gene Roddenberry.
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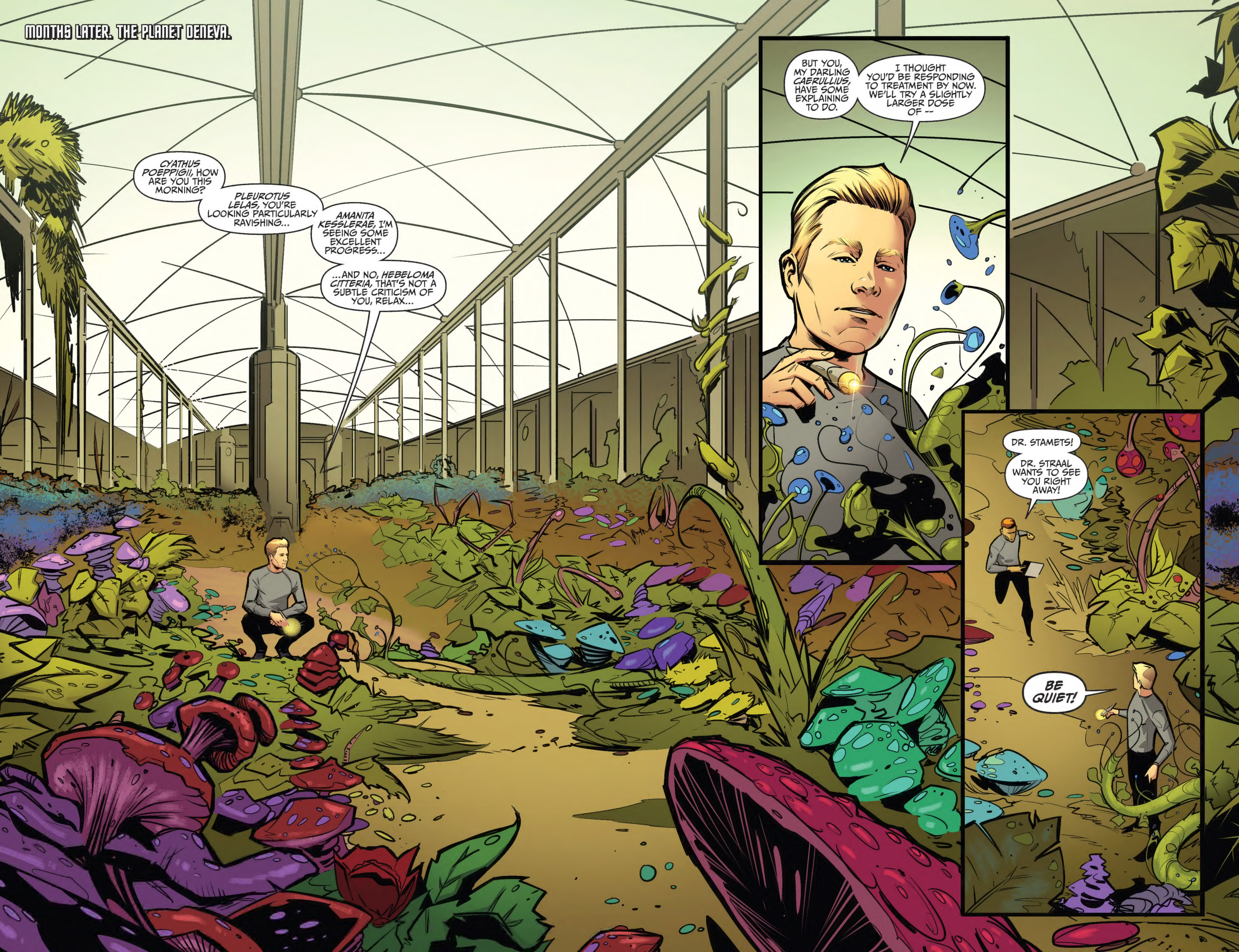
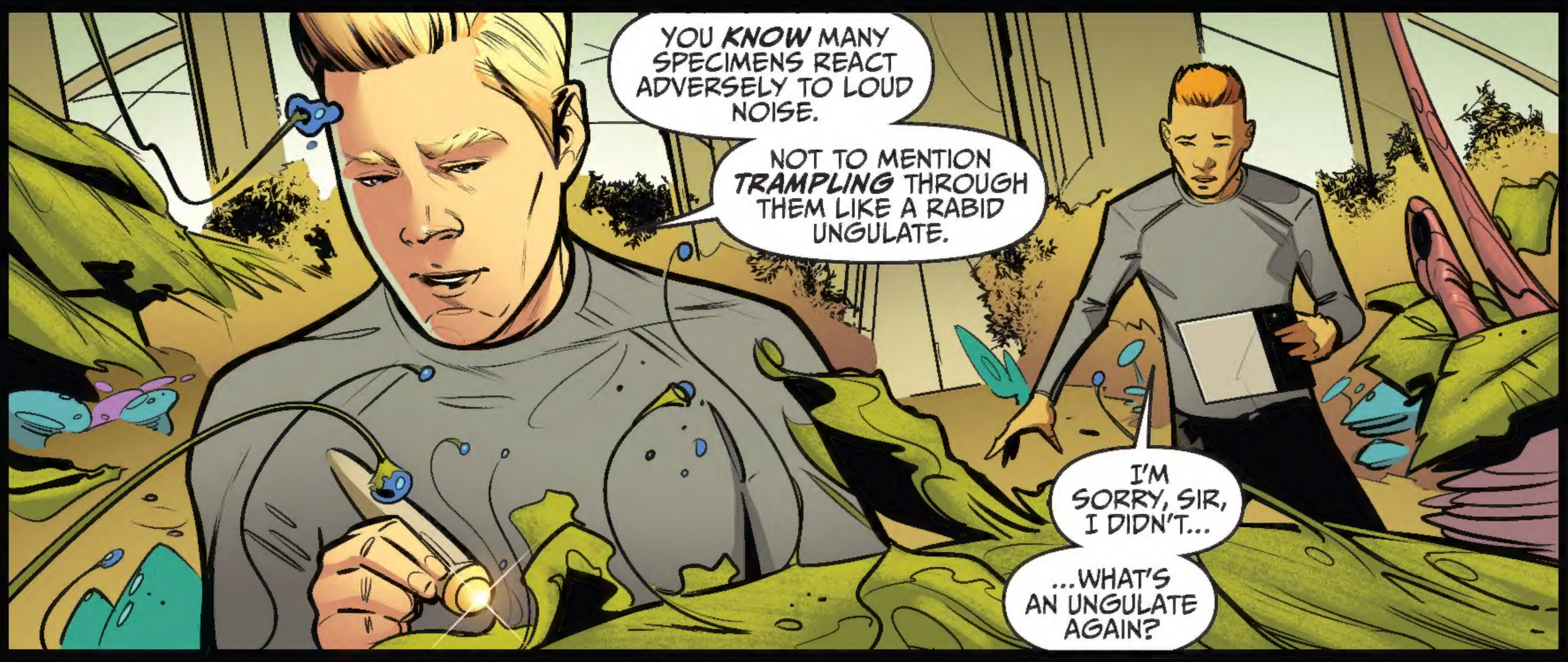
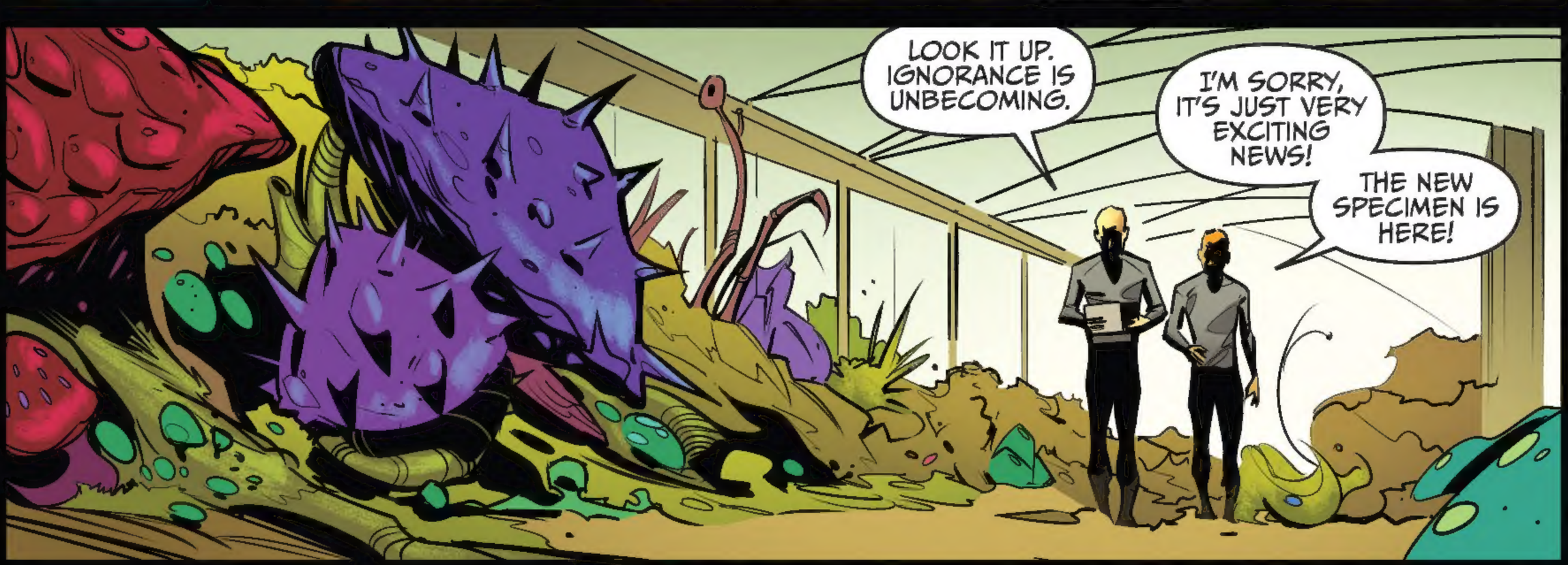
BEFORE.
CAPTAIN'S LOG, SUPPLEMENTAL.
THERE WAS NO WARNING.
NCC-1322
U.S.S. SOMERVILLE
WE WERE COLLECTING RARE SPECIMENS FROM AN UNMAPPED ASTEROID BELT WHEN THE ROCKS STARTED SPINNING WILDLY.
REROUTE ALL AUXILIARY POWER TO SHIELDS!
COME ABOUT THREE-TWO-FIVE!
AYE, CAPTAIN!
CAPTAIN, SHIELDS ARE HOLDING...
"...BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG!"
MAGNETICS FROM THE ASTEROIDS WERE PLAYING HAVOC WITH OUR COMMS.
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL WE BRING OUR AWAY TEAM HOME!

LET'S WRAP IT UP HERE!
AWAY TEAM TO SOMERVILLE, COME IN--
=TTZT=- OMERVILLE, PLEASE RES =PTTZ-TTZT=
HOLD YOUR POSITIONS, LIEUTENANT! WE'RE LOCKING ON TO YOU NOW!
I'VE GOT THEM, CAPTAIN!
"TRANSPORTING NOW--"
KA-KOOM

LIEUTENANT, CONFIRM TRANSPORT!
CAPTAIN, THEY'RE BACK, BUT--
--I'M NOT DETECTING ANY VITAL SIGNS--
SOMEHOW, THE SPECIMENS SURVIVED THE TRANSPORT.
--WE LOST THEM, CAPTAIN!
HELM, GET US OUT OF HERE, WARP FOUR!
MAY THE KNOWLEDGE THEY PROVIDE US BE WORTH THE SACRIFICE.


MONTHS LATER. THE PLANET DENEVA.
CYATHUS POEPPIGII, HOW ARE YOU THIS MORNING?
PLEUROTUS LELAS, YOU'RE LOOKING PARTICULARLY RAVISHING...
AMANITA KESSLERAE, I'M SEEING SOME EXCELLENT PROGRESS...
...AND NO, HEBELOMA CITTERIA, THAT'S NOT A SUBTLE CRITICISM OF YOU, RELAX...
BUT YOU, MY DARLING CAERULLIUS, HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE RESPONDING TO TREATMENT BY NOW. WE'LL TRY A SLIGHTLY LARGER DOSE OF --
DR. STAMETS!
DR. STRAAL WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY!
BE QUIET!


YOU KNOW MANY SPECIMENS REACT ADVERSELY TO LOUD NOISE.
NOT TO MENTION TRAMPLING THROUGH THEM LIKE A RABID UNGULATE.
I'M SORRY, SIR, I DIDN'T...
...WHAT'S AN UNGULATE AGAIN?


LOOK IT UP. IGNORANCE IS UNBECOMING.
I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST VERY EXCITING NEWS!
THE NEW SPECIMEN IS HERE!

STELLA IS HERE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO!
DID STRAAL START WORKING ON IT ALREADY? TELL ME HE HASN'T STARTED WORKING ON IT ALREADY.

OH, YOU ALSO RECEIVED ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE YOUNG STUDENT BACK ON EARTH WHO'S RESEARCHING CHRYTIDS. SHE'S QUITE THE BUDDING MYCOLOGIST. I THINK YOU HAVE A FAN!
SCIENTISTS DON'T NEED FANS.

SCIENTISTS NEED LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS WITH THE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE IT.
FILE IT AWAY WITH HER OTHER MESSAGES...

BEHOLD.
PROTOTAXITES STELLAVIATORI.

ALSO KNOWN AS STELLA.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS A TINY SAMPLE.
IT WAS. ONE HOUR AGO.
NOW IT'S THIS.

I'VE DOSED IT WITH A GROWTH INHIBITOR SO IT DOESN'T DEVOUR THE WHOLE FACILITY BY TOMORROW MORNING.
INCREDIBLE...

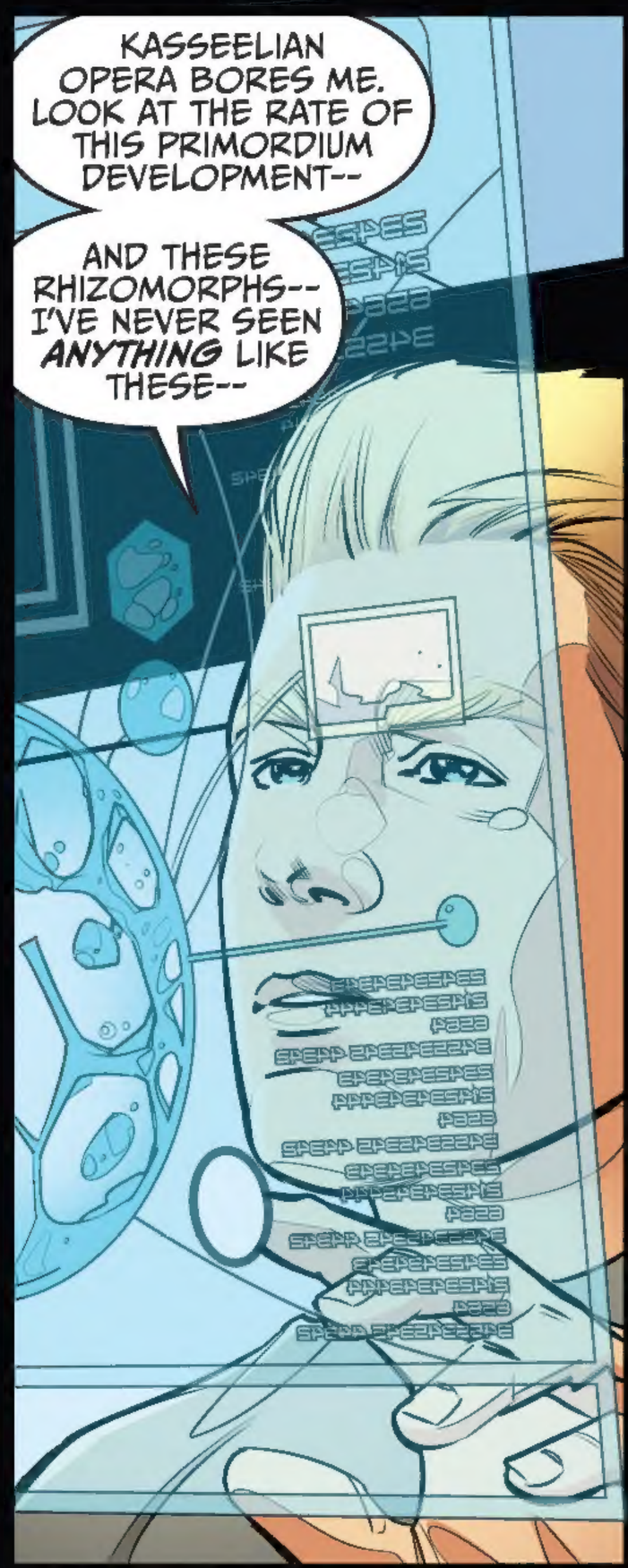
WE ARE THE FIRST ONES TO STUDY STELLAVIATORI IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT!
START ETCHING OUR NAMES ON THE ZEE-MAGNEES PRIZE!

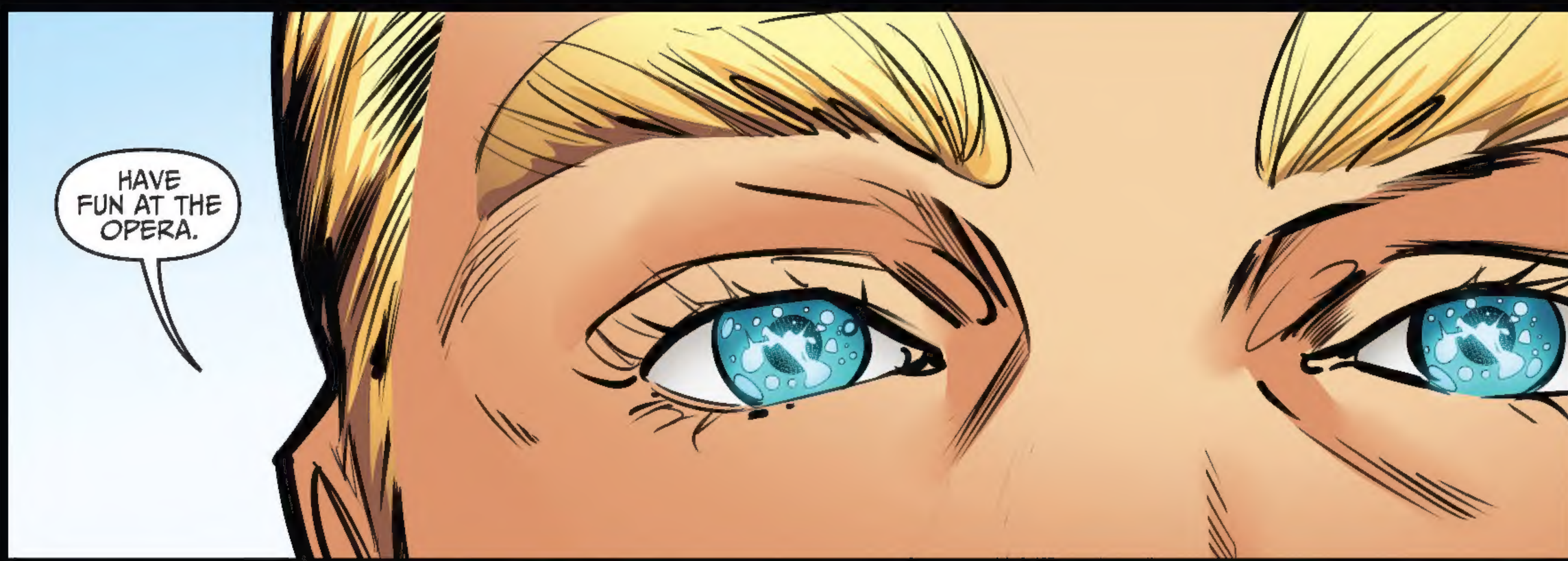
PAUL, DON'T FORGET THAT OUR ***PRIORITY*** IS THE TERRAFORMING WORK. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. THAT'S WHY WE GET THE RESOURCES WE NEED.

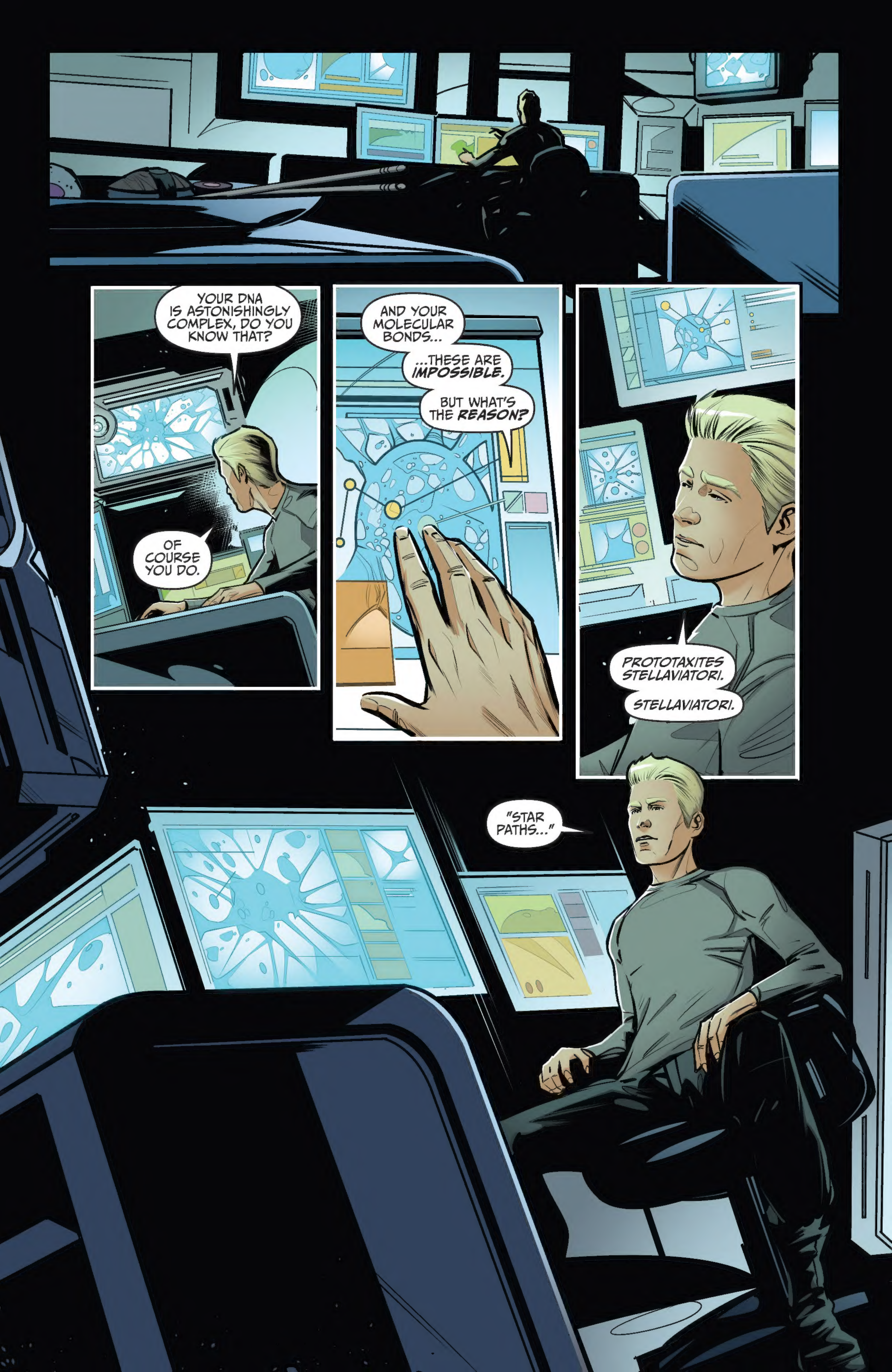
I AM AWARE.

BUT AN INCREDIBLY RARE FUNGAL SPECIES FOUND ONLY ON S-TYPE ASTEROIDS AND ***NEVER*** SUCCESSFULLY PRESERVED IN A LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT?

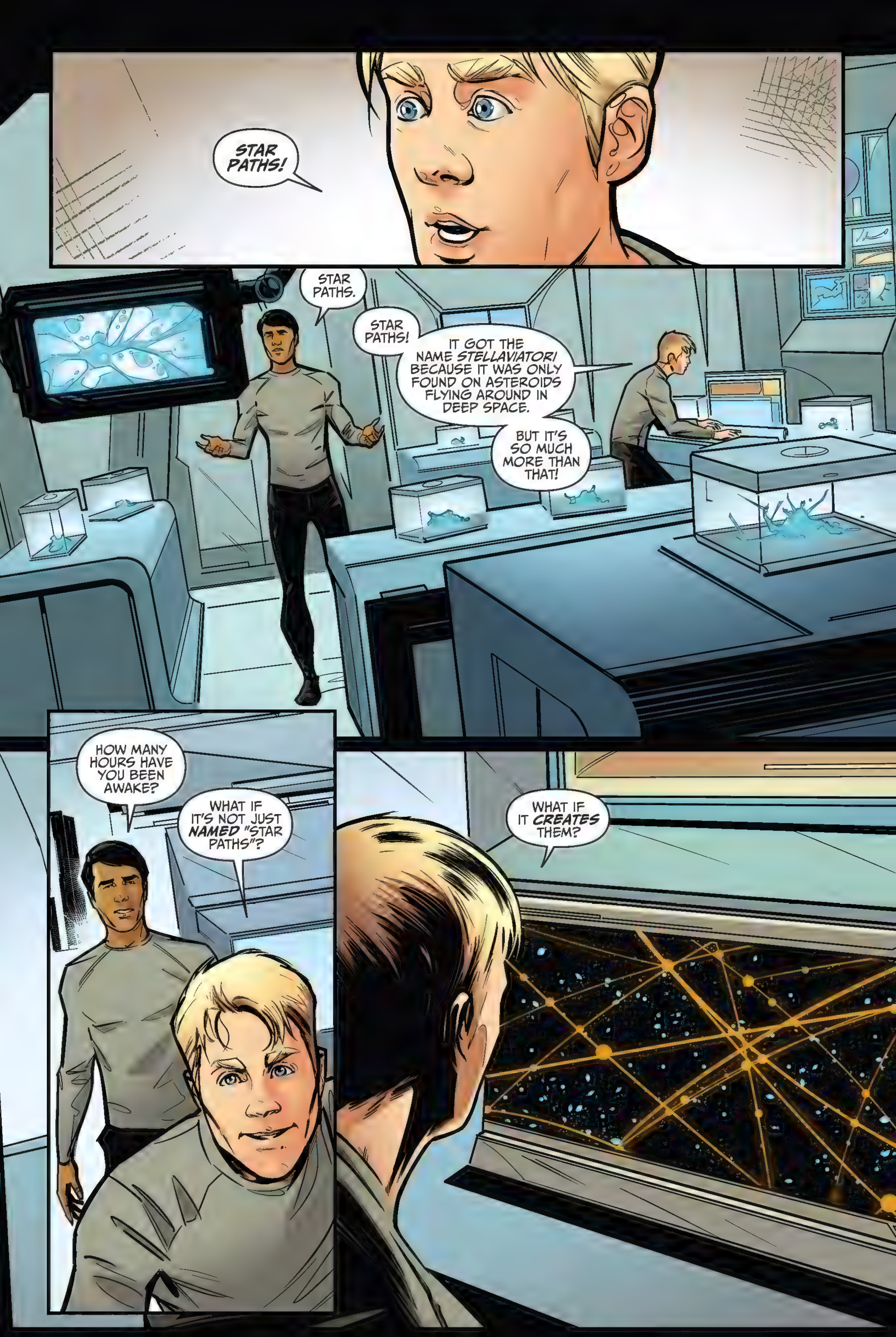
THIS IS WHAT I ***LIVE*** FOR.





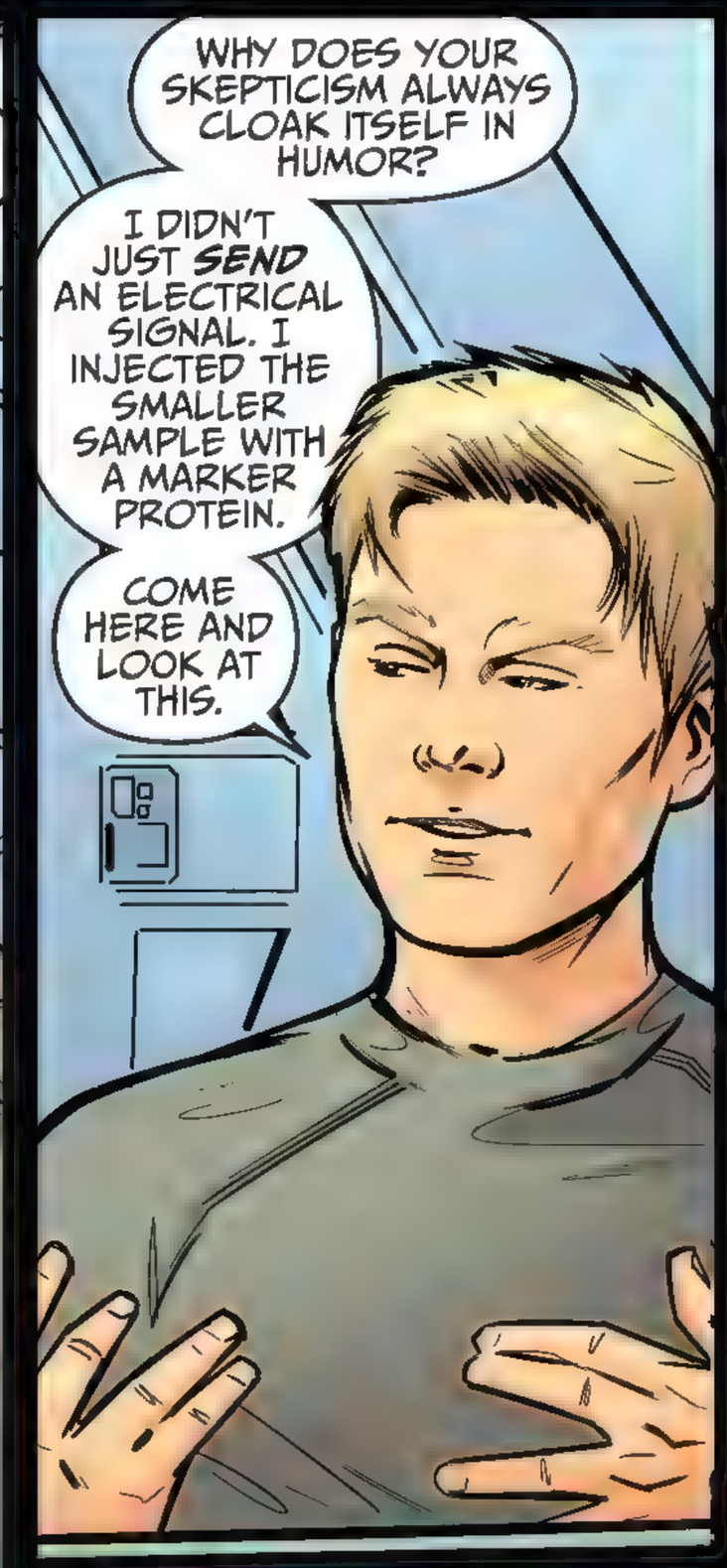

YOUR DNA IS ASTONISHINGLY COMPLEX, DO YOU KNOW THAT?
OF COURSE YOU DO.
AND YOUR MOLECULAR BONDS...
...THESE ARE IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT WHAT'S THE REASON?
PROTOTAXITES STELLAVIATORI.
STELLAVIATORI.
"STAR PATHS..."

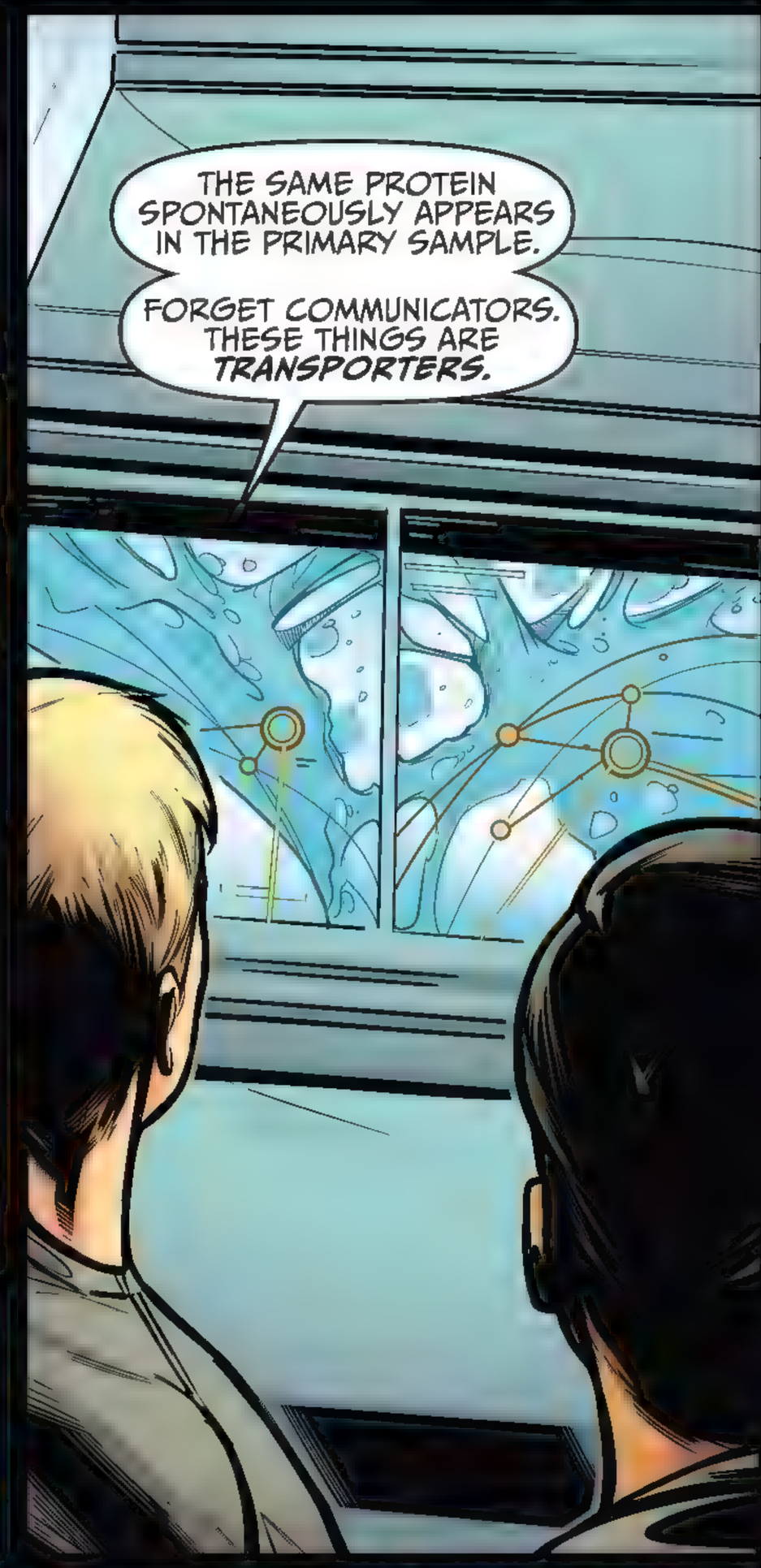
"YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, JUSTIN..."
THE BLOOM OF KASSEEL
...WE'RE MONTHS AWAY FROM TERRAFORMING DRAXUS, A GOAL WE HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TOWARD FOR FIVE YEARS...
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE...
...AND YOU WANT TO PISS THAT AWAY BECAUSE PAUL FOUND A NEW MUSHROOM?
THE POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS FOR *STELLAVIATORI* ARE BIGGER THAN ANYTHING YOU AND I HAVE CREATED...
I BEG YOUR PARDON?
LET'S NOT DO THIS NOW. CAN WE JUST TRY AND ENJOY OUR EVENING?
I NEED TO KNOW THAT I, THAT *WE* COME FIRST, JUSTIN.
OF COURSE WE DO.
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DRAXUS...WITH OR WITHOUT YOU, MY LOVE.

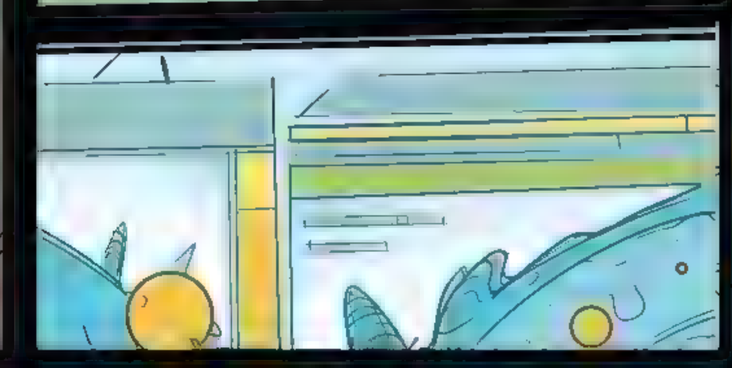

STAR PATHS!
STAR PATHS.
STAR PATHS!
IT GOT THE NAME *STELLAVIATORI* BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY FOUND ON ASTEROIDS FLYING AROUND IN DEEP SPACE.
BUT IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT!
HOW MANY HOURS HAVE YOU BEEN AWAKE?
WHAT IF IT'S NOT JUST *NAMED* "STAR PATHS"?
WHAT IF IT *CREATES* THEM?

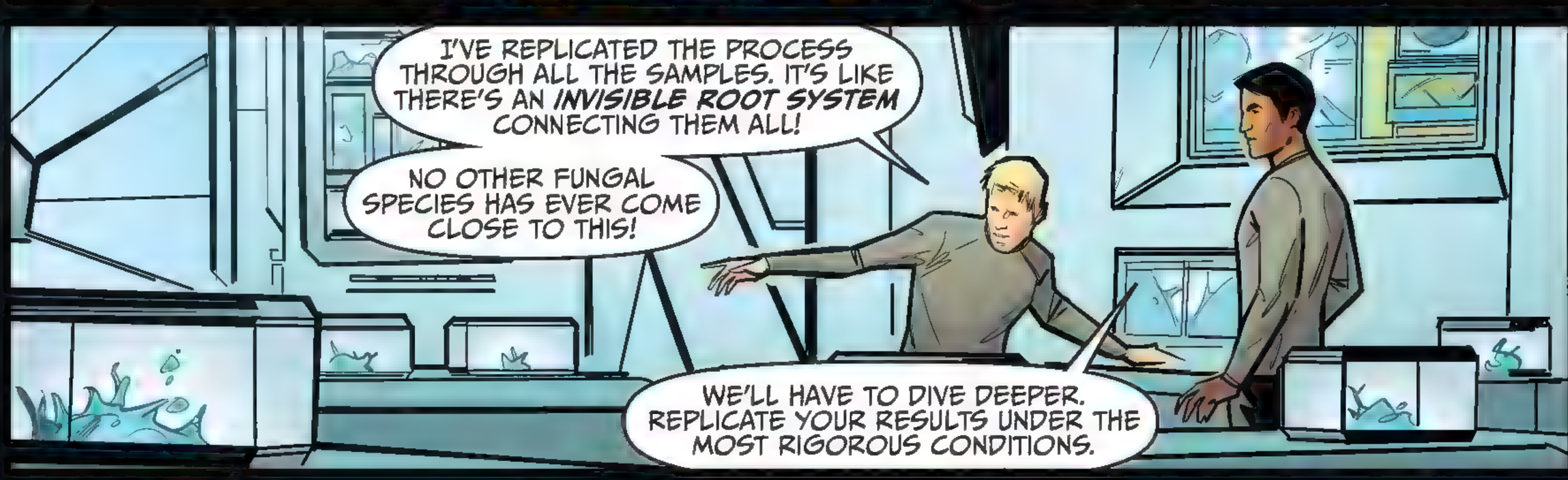
CREATES STAR PATHS. THE FUNGUS.
OBSERVE THE PRIMARY SAMPLE, PLEASE. I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE.
I'M POKING THIS SMALLER PIECE, WHICH I REMOVED FROM THE PRIMARY SAMPLE.
CHECK THE MONITORS. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO *PHYSICAL CONNECTIONS* BETWEEN THE TWO. NOT EVEN MICROSCOPIC.
DO YOU *SEE* IT?
I SEE IT.
FASCINATING.
ACTION AT A DISTANCE!
NO VISIBLE ROOT SYSTEM CONNECTING THEM, BUT THE SIGNAL PASSED BETWEEN THEM!

AMAZING. AN ELECTRICAL SIGNAL PASSED BETWEEN TWO PHYSICALLY UNCONNECTED THINGS.
CONGRATULATIONS, DR. STAMETS. YOU'VE INVENTED THE COMMUNICATOR.


WHY DOES YOUR SKEPTICISM ALWAYS CLOAK ITSELF IN HUMOR?
I DIDN'T JUST *SEND* AN ELECTRICAL SIGNAL. I INJECTED THE SMALLER SAMPLE WITH A MARKER PROTEIN.
COME HERE AND LOOK AT THIS.


THE SAME PROTEIN SPONTANEOUSLY APPEARS IN THE PRIMARY SAMPLE.
FORGET COMMUNICATORS. THESE THINGS ARE *TRANSPORTERS.*




I'VE REPLICATED THE PROCESS THROUGH ALL THE SAMPLES. IT'S LIKE THERE'S AN *INVISIBLE ROOT SYSTEM* CONNECTING THEM ALL!
NO OTHER FUNGAL SPECIES HAS EVER COME CLOSE TO THIS!
WE'LL HAVE TO DIVE DEEPER. REPLICATE YOUR RESULTS UNDER THE MOST RIGOROUS CONDITIONS.

YES. AND THEN?
WE FORMULATE A WORKING HYPOTHESIS THAT WE CAN PRESENT FOR PEER REVIEW.
YES. AND THEN?
AND THEN...

"...WE TAKE IT TO *ALPHA CENTAURI.*"

TWO YEARS LATER.

FEDERATION RESEARCH COUNCIL

MYCELIUM.

THE MICROSCOPIC NETWORK THAT CONNECTS FUNGI ACROSS DISTANCES GREAT AND SMALL, CREATING WHAT CAN LEGITIMATELY BE CALLED THE LARGEST ORGANISMS FOUND ON ANY PLANET.

THUS FAR WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD MYCELIUM TO BE A NETWORK DEVOTED TO WATER AND NUTRIENT DELIVERY.

BUT AS THE RESEARCH WE'VE PRESENTED TODAY HAS SHOWN, MY COLLEAGUE AND I HAVE DISCOVERED A ***NEW*** FACET OF MYCELIAL CONNECTION THUS FAR LIMITED TO ONE EXTREMELY RARE SPECIES.

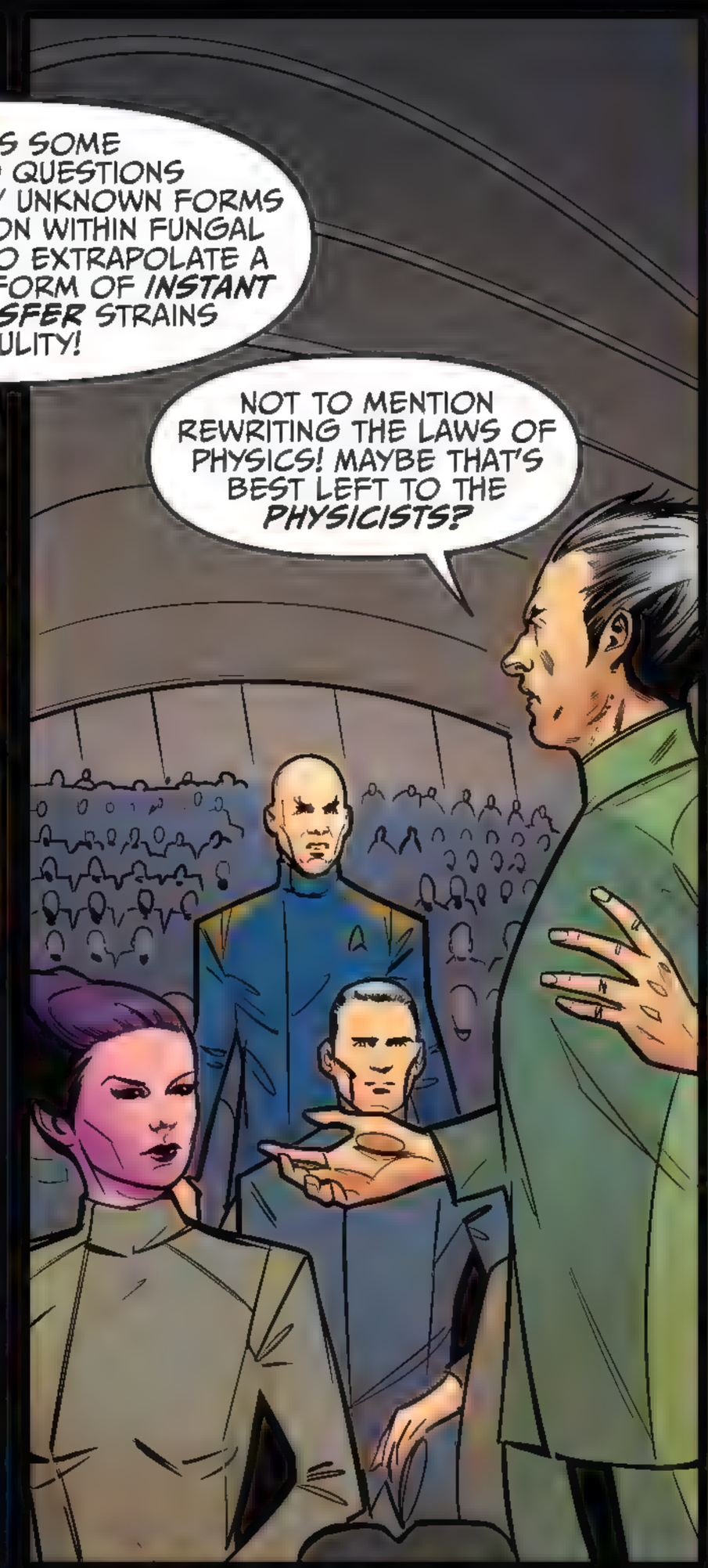
PROTOTAXITES STELLAVIATORI.

A FUNGAL NETWORK THAT COMMUNICATES ON A ***QUANTUM*** LEVEL.

UNDETECTABLE TO THE NAKED EYE, BUT ***THERE.***

WITH ***NO*** LIMIT TO THE DISTANCE ACROSS WHICH ***MATTER ITSELF*** CAN TRAVEL.

BUT YOUR RESEARCH DOESN'T SHOW THAT, DR. STAMETS.
IT RAISES SOME INTERESTING QUESTIONS ABOUT PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN FORMS OF COMMUNICATION WITHIN FUNGAL NETWORKS, BUT TO EXTRAPOLATE A UNIVERSE-WIDE FORM OF INSTANT MATTER TRANSFER STRAINS CREDULITY!


NOT TO MENTION REWRITING THE LAWS OF PHYSICS! MAYBE THAT'S BEST LEFT TO THE PHYSICISTS?

BUT THAT'S JUST IT! THE WHOLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN BIOLOGY AND PHYSICS HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT! OUR RESEARCH SUGGESTS--

YOU'RE MAKING RIDICULOUS ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT QUANTUM VARIATION--
AND COMPLETELY IGNORING HAWKING-ZEL'DOVICH RADIATION--
REALLY? MUSHROOMS ARE THE SECRET TO INFINITE MATTER TRANSFER ACROSS UNLIMITED DISTANCES?

WE'LL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS AT THE RECEPTION.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR PRESENTATION.

THREE HOURS LATER.
"PROVE IT."
IT'S SO EASY TO SAY THAT, Y'KNOW?
IT'S A HYPOTHESIS! WE NEED THEIR SUPPORT SO THAT WE CAN PROVE IT!
IT'S LIKE THEY'VE NEVER SEEN SCIENCE BEFORE.
WE'RE MYCOLOGISTS, PAUL. FACE IT. WE HAVE NEVER BEEN, AND NEVER WILL BE, THE COOL KIDS IN THE ROOM.
LISTEN, AMELIA WANTS TO SEE ME TONIGHT. SHE'S CONCERNED THAT OUR STELLA RESEARCH IS TAKING AWAY FROM THE TERRAFORMING PROJECT.
WELL I'M SURE TODAY'S PRESENTATION CHANGED HER MIND.
I'VE GOT ANOTHER MEETING NOW. TRY NOT TO DROWN YOURSELF WHILE I'M GONE.
NO PROMISES.
=SIGH=
I MISS MY MUSHROOMS.
mmm hmmm hmm hmm hmm mmmm mmmm

EXCUSE ME, IS THAT KASSEELIAN OPERA YOU'RE HUMMING?
YES! YOU KNOW IT?
I HATE IT.
MY EARS THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR NOT HUMMING IT ANYMORE.
YOU'RE RUDE.
AND YOU THINK YOU'RE FUNNY.
AND YOU HAVE BAD TASTE IN MUSIC.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MY TASTE IN MUSIC IS, BECAUSE I DON'T HUM IT IN PUBLIC.
BARKEEP?
YOUR LECTURES ARE BETTER THAN YOUR MANNERS. I PARTICULARLY LIKED THE PART ABOUT "STAR PATHS."
GOOD LUCK.
...I LIKE HIM.

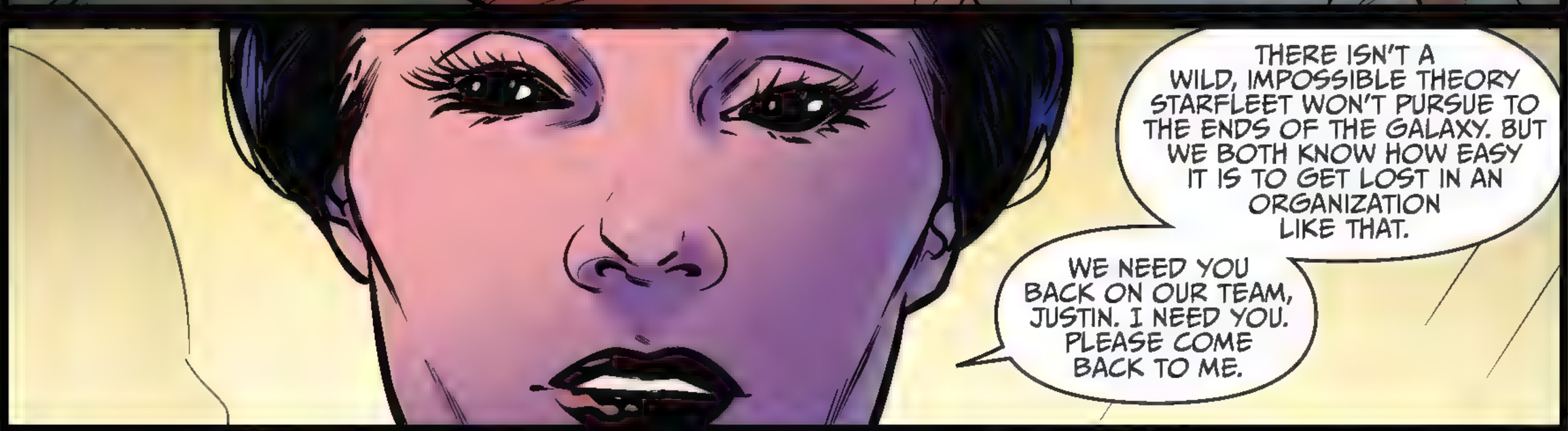
DR. STRAAL, I'M COMMANDER ZEV REBHOLZ. IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE STARFLEET AT A CIVILIAN MYCOLOGY SYMPOSIUM.
STARFLEET'S SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS ARE INCREDIBLY VARIED. MY DIVISION IS DOING CUTTING-EDGE WORK IN QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT, AND I'M INTRIGUED BY THE WORK YOU'VE BEEN DOING.
I REALIZE NOT EVERYONE HERE TODAY SAW THE GENIUS IN DOCTOR STAMETS'S PRESENTATION, BUT I CERTAINLY DID.
YOU'VE STILL GOT A WAYS TO GO, BUT I PLAN TO FOLLOW YOUR RESEARCH CAREFULLY.
THAT'S... FLATTERING, COMMANDER.
PAUL SOMETIMES GETS A LITTLE AHEAD OF HIMSELF, BUT I BELIEVE WE'RE CLOSE TO PROVING OUR THEORIES ABOUT ORGANIC ENTANGLEMENT.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT SIGNING UP WITH STARFLEET. BUT WE OFFER MORE THAN JUST THE CHANCE TO FLY STARSHIPS.
THE FREEDOM TO FOCUS ON YOUR GOALS WITH UNLIMITED RESOURCES AND MINIMAL DISTRACTIONS CAN BE EXHILARATING.
YOU MIGHT FIND SOME OF THESE ARTICLES HELPFUL.
KEEP IN TOUCH, WON'T YOU?

WHY DID YOU COME HERE, AMELIA?

STAGE ONE IS COMPLETE. THERE IS ENOUGH ATMOSPHERE ON DRAXUS NOW TO BEGIN SEEDING.
THAT'S WONDERFUL. BUT YOU COULD HAVE SIMPLY SENT ME A MESSAGE.
I WANTED TO SEE THOSE POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS FOR PAUL'S MUSHROOMS FOR MYSELF.

IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOUR PEERS WERE ANY MORE IMPRESSED THAN I WAS.
I'M TRULY SORRY. PUBLIC HUMILIATION IS NEVER FUN. BUT I THINK WE BOTH KNOW WHERE YOU BELONG, AND WHERE YOUR FUTURE REALLY LIES.
I'D STILL WELCOME PAUL BACK ON OUR TEAM, BUT YOU HAVE TO DECIDE NOW.

STARFLEET WAS IMPRESSED.
THEY'VE BEEN FOLLOWING OUR WORK AND AGREE ABOUT ITS POTENTIAL.


THERE ISN'T A WILD, IMPOSSIBLE THEORY STARFLEET WON'T PURSUE TO THE ENDS OF THE GALAXY. BUT WE BOTH KNOW HOW EASY IT IS TO GET LOST IN AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THAT.
WE NEED YOU BACK ON OUR TEAM, JUSTIN. I NEED YOU. PLEASE COME BACK TO ME.

FINAL CALL FOR THE SHUTTLE TO DENEVA.

hmm hmm mmmm mmmm

HYPOCRITE.

YOU'RE HUMMING IN PUBLIC.

HUMMING *KASSEELIAN OPERA*, NO LESS.

I--UH-- IT GOT STUCK IN MY HEAD.

YOU DON'T SAY.

YOU'RE *STARFLEET?*

HEADED BACK TO MY POSTING.

VERY, VERY FAR FROM DENEVA.

SO IT'S UNLIKELY WE'LL EVER HAVE TO ARGUE ABOUT MUSIC AGAIN.

UNLESS I WAS SO IRRITATED THAT I INSISTED YOU TELL ME HOW TO CONTACT YOU IN THE FUTURE SO THAT WE COULD CONTINUE ARGUING.

I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

DENEVA.

"NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT!"

STARFLEET WILL *NEVER* GET THEIR HANDS ON OUR RESEARCH!

JUST HEAR ME OUT--

NO, STRAAL, I'M *NOT* GOING TO HEAR YOU OUT. I'M GRATEFUL YOU DECIDED TO COME BACK TO WORK.

I KNOW IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN EASY FOR YOU TO TELL AMELIA WE WOULDN'T BE JOINING HER ON DRAXUS.

I'M GOING TO *SAVE* YOU FROM WASTING ANY MORE OF YOUR EXTREMELY VALUABLE BRAINPOWER ON THE UNACCEPTABLE NOTION OF WORKING FOR STARFLEET.

THAT'S MY POINT. STARFLEET THINKS OUR BRAINPOWER IS VALUABLE ENOUGH TO COMMIT SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO OUR RESEARCH. BETTER EQUIPMENT, MORE ASSISTANTS...

...THIS COULD SHAVE *YEARS* OFF OUR WORK!

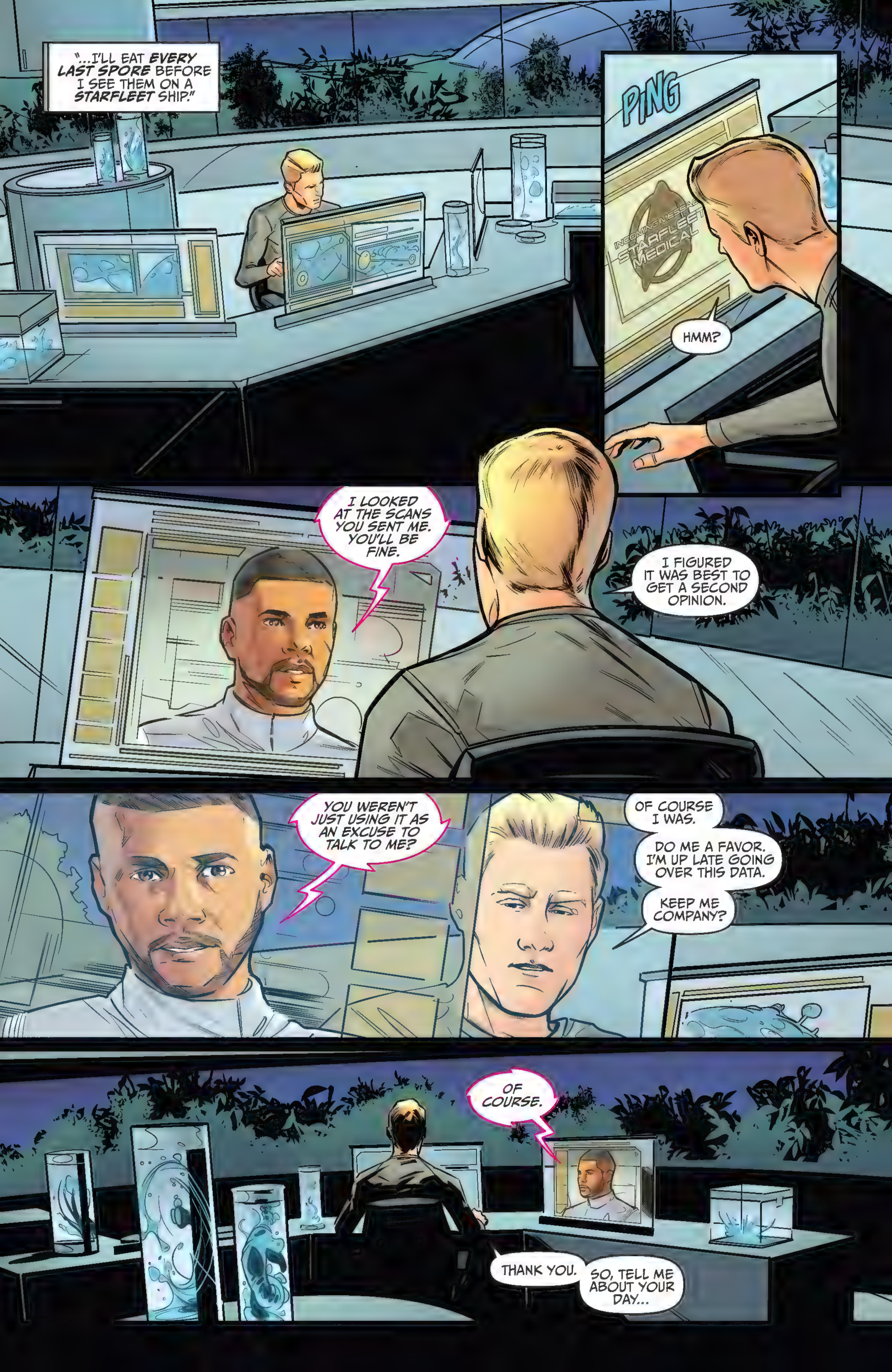
AND ALL THAT WORK WILL BELONG TO STARFLEET.

NO THANK YOU.

I'LL BE IN THE *STELLA* GARDEN--*OUR* GARDEN--IF YOU NEED ME.

...GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...
DON'T WORRY. I'M NEVER HANDING YOU OVER TO STARFLEET.
THEY'D JUST TRY TO TURN YOU INTO SOME FANCY NEW TORPEDO.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STARTING TO RUB OFF ON ME...
HMM.
OOH.
MINTY.
OH--
--YES!

PAUL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
THANK GOD. IT TOOK TWO STIMS TO WAKE YOU UP!
I'M FINE...
YOUR VITALS ARE STABLE. WHAT HAPPENED?
I TASTED THEM.
THE STELLA.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
YOU DON'T WANT STARFLEET MESSING WITH OUR RESEARCH--
--BUT YOU THINK IT'S PERFECTLY FINE TO EAT IT?!
NOTHING IN OUR RESEARCH INDICATED ANY DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF INGESTION.
AND YES...


"...I'LL EAT EVERY LAST SPORE BEFORE I SEE THEM ON A STARFLEET SHIP."
PING
INCOMING MESSAGE
STARFLEET MEDICAL
HMM?
I LOOKED AT THE SCANS YOU SENT ME. YOU'LL BE FINE.
I FIGURED IT WAS BEST TO GET A SECOND OPINION.
YOU WEREN'T JUST USING IT AS AN EXCUSE TO TALK TO ME?
OF COURSE I WAS.
DO ME A FAVOR. I'M UP LATE GOING OVER THIS DATA.
KEEP ME COMPANY?
OF COURSE.
THANK YOU.
SO, TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DAY...

THREE MONTHS LATER.

I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT ***EMORY ERICKSON*** FELT LIKE THE FIRST TIME HE TESTED HIS TRANSPORTER.

IF THIS WORKS, WE'LL BE GOING FARTHER AND NEEDING LESS POWER THAN HE EVER COULD HAVE ***DREAMED.***

DENEVA STATION TO BETA DARIUS. WE'RE READY IF YOU ARE.

READY TO RECEIVE, DR. STAMETS.

EXCELLENT. COMMENCING TEST.

THE HONOR IS YOURS, PARTNER.

THE HONOR IS ***OURS,*** PARTNER.

SPORE INFUSION COMMENCING

HE'S GONE!
BETA DARIUS, DID YOU RECEIVE?
DID YOU RECEIVE?
RECEIVED, DENEVA.
CONGRATULATIONS!
YES!
WE DID IT.
WAIT.
HOW DO WE DEFINITIVELY KNOW THEY SHOWED US THE SAME FROG?
PAUL, COME ON...
I'M KIDDING! WE DID IT!
THE MYCELIAL NETWORK IS TRAVERSABLE!

SIX MONTHS LATER.

IT'S READY FOR A HUMAN TEST.

NO, IT'S NOT.

I DON'T CARE HOW MANY SIMULATIONS WE'VE RUN, THE DISTORTION IN THE SPORE DISPERSAL RATIOS ARE STILL OUTSIDE ACCEPTABLE LEVELS.

BUT THAT JUST AFFECTS EFFICIENCY OF TRANSPORT! IT DOESN'T POSE A THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF THE TRAVELER!

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. WE RUN MORE SIMULATIONS, AND IF WE DON'T GET OPTIMAL RESULTS, WE TAKE A BREAK UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT ***HOW*** TO GET THEM.

"TAKE A BREAK."

SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

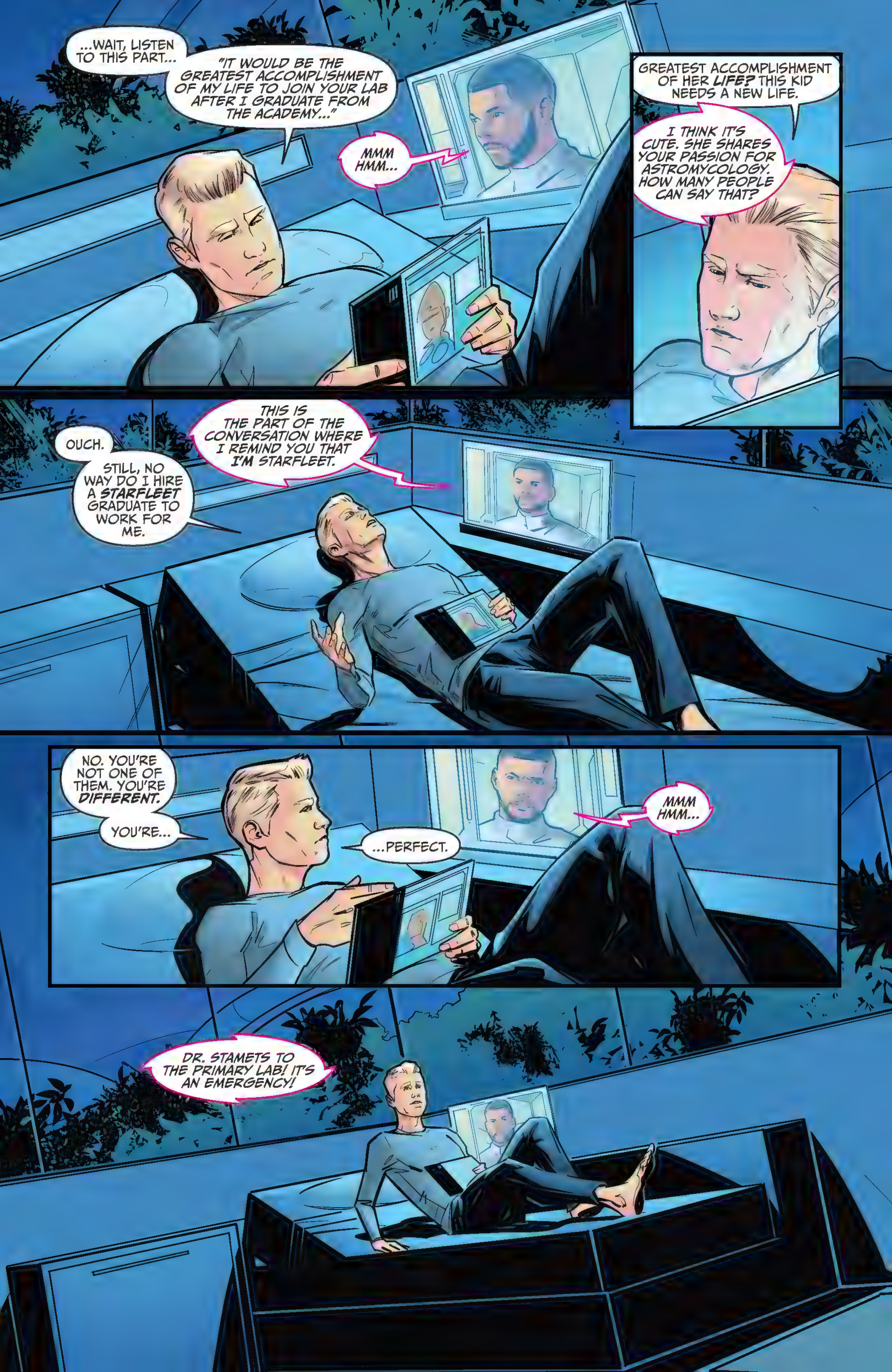
EXCUSE ME?

THIS IS ABOUT YOUR ***WIFE.***

YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM AMELIA TOO LONG, AND YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO HER.

THAT'S FINE, BUT DON'T FOR A ***SECOND*** TRY TO MAKE IT ABOUT THE ***WORK.***

STAFF, LEAVE US, PLEASE.
CHARLIE, GO.
SIR, I--
PAUL, THAT'S THE LAST TIME YOU BRING UP MY PERSONAL LIFE IN FRONT OF THE STAFF.
THEY NEED TO HEAR IT. THEY'VE SEEN WHAT I'VE SEEN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.
IT'S LIKE THE CLOSER WE GET TO SUCCESS, THE MORE AFRAID YOU GET!
BECAUSE WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, PAUL!
WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE GALAXY DOING THIS RESEARCH! IF WE SCREW IT UP, ALL THE WORK WE'VE DONE IS FOR NOTHING!
OUR SACRIFICES WILL BE FOR NOTHING!
THE WORK IS WORTH ANY SACRIFICE.
IF YOU DON'T AGREE, MAYBE IT'S BETTER YOU GO WORK WITH AMELIA ON DRAXUS.
WE'RE SO CLOSE.
SO CLOSE.


...WAIT, LISTEN TO THIS PART...
"IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT OF MY LIFE TO JOIN YOUR LAB AFTER I GRADUATE FROM THE ACADEMY..."
MMM HMM...
GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HER LIFE? THIS KID NEEDS A NEW LIFE.
I THINK IT'S CUTE. SHE SHARES YOUR PASSION FOR ASTROMYCOLOGY. HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN SAY THAT?
OUCH.
STILL, NO WAY DO I HIRE A STARFLEET GRADUATE TO WORK FOR ME.
THIS IS THE PART OF THE CONVERSATION WHERE I REMIND YOU THAT I'M STARFLEET.
NO. YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM. YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
YOU'RE...
...PERFECT.
MMM HMM...
DR. STAMETS TO THE PRIMARY LAB! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

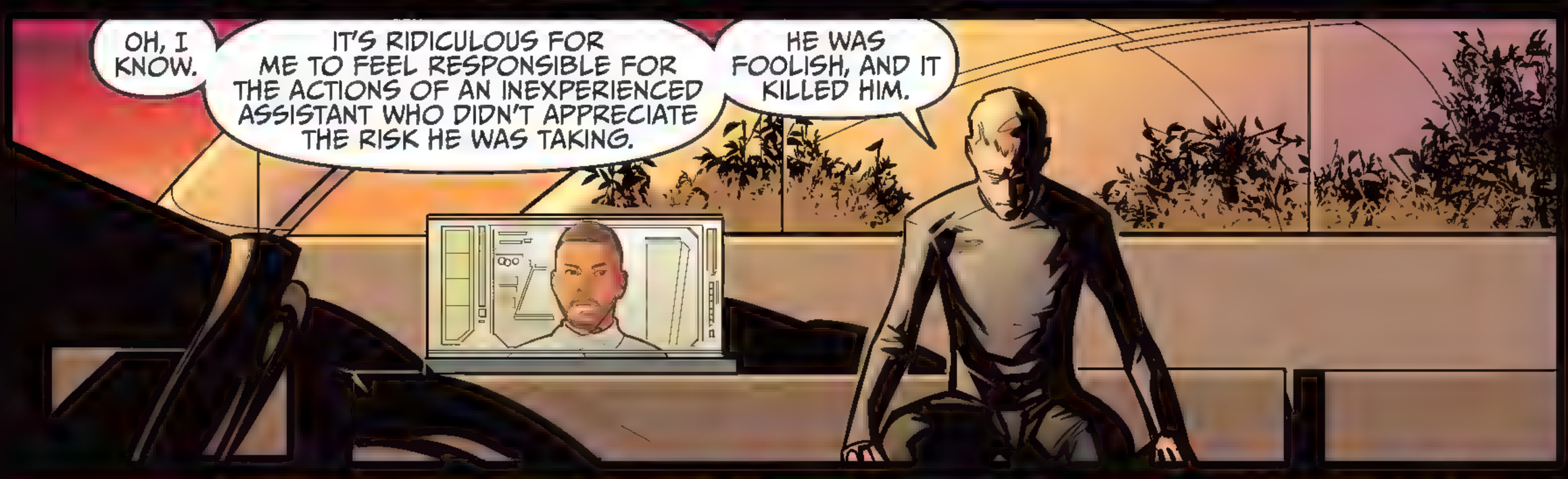
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S--
OH NO--

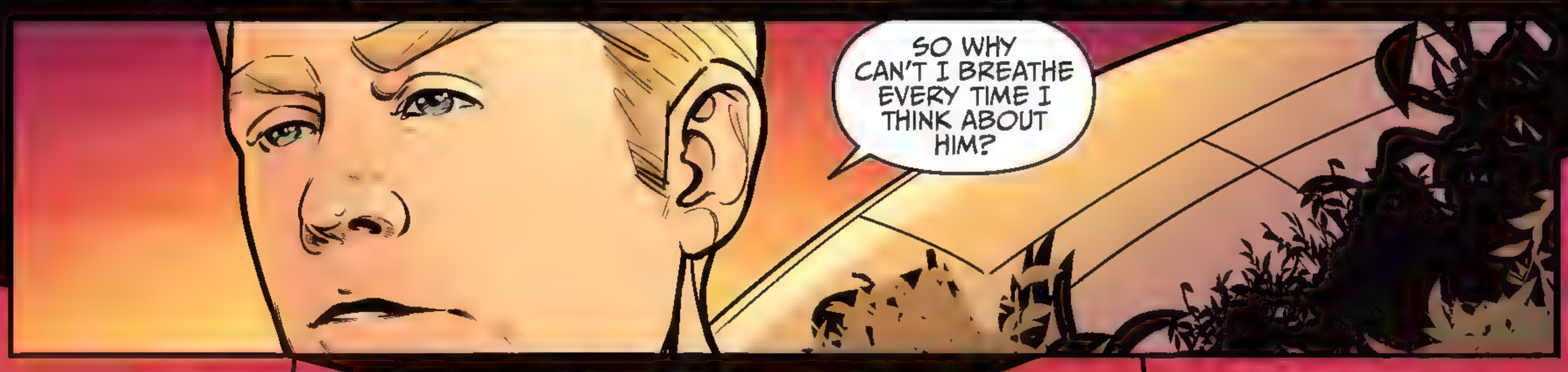
CHARLIE...
...HE TRIED TO TEST THE NETWORK HIMSELF.
NO NO NO...

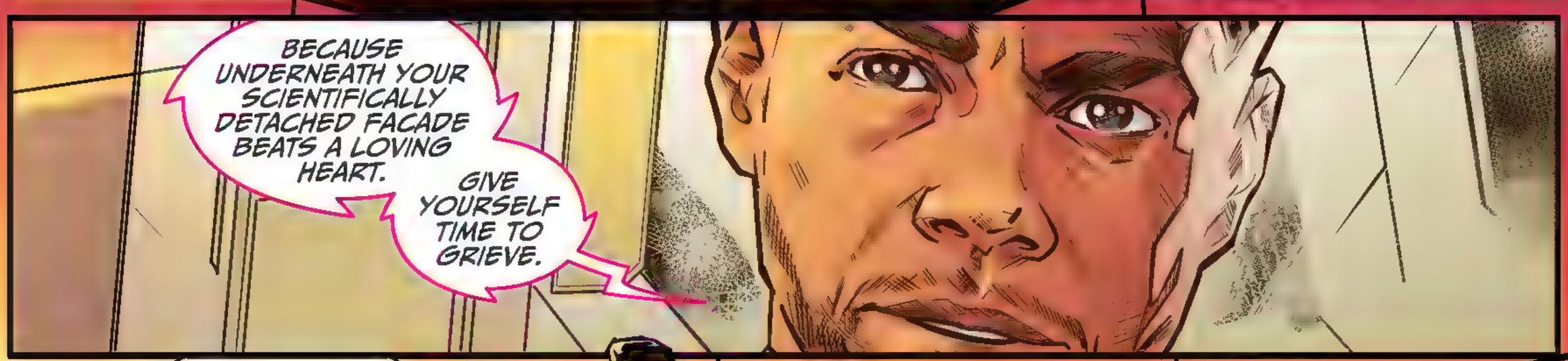
WE WARNED HIM NOT TO BUT--
--HE WAS WORRIED YOU TWO MIGHT SPLIT UP--
--THAT YOU MIGHT CLOSE THE LAB--

I WISH YOU WERE HERE WITH ME.

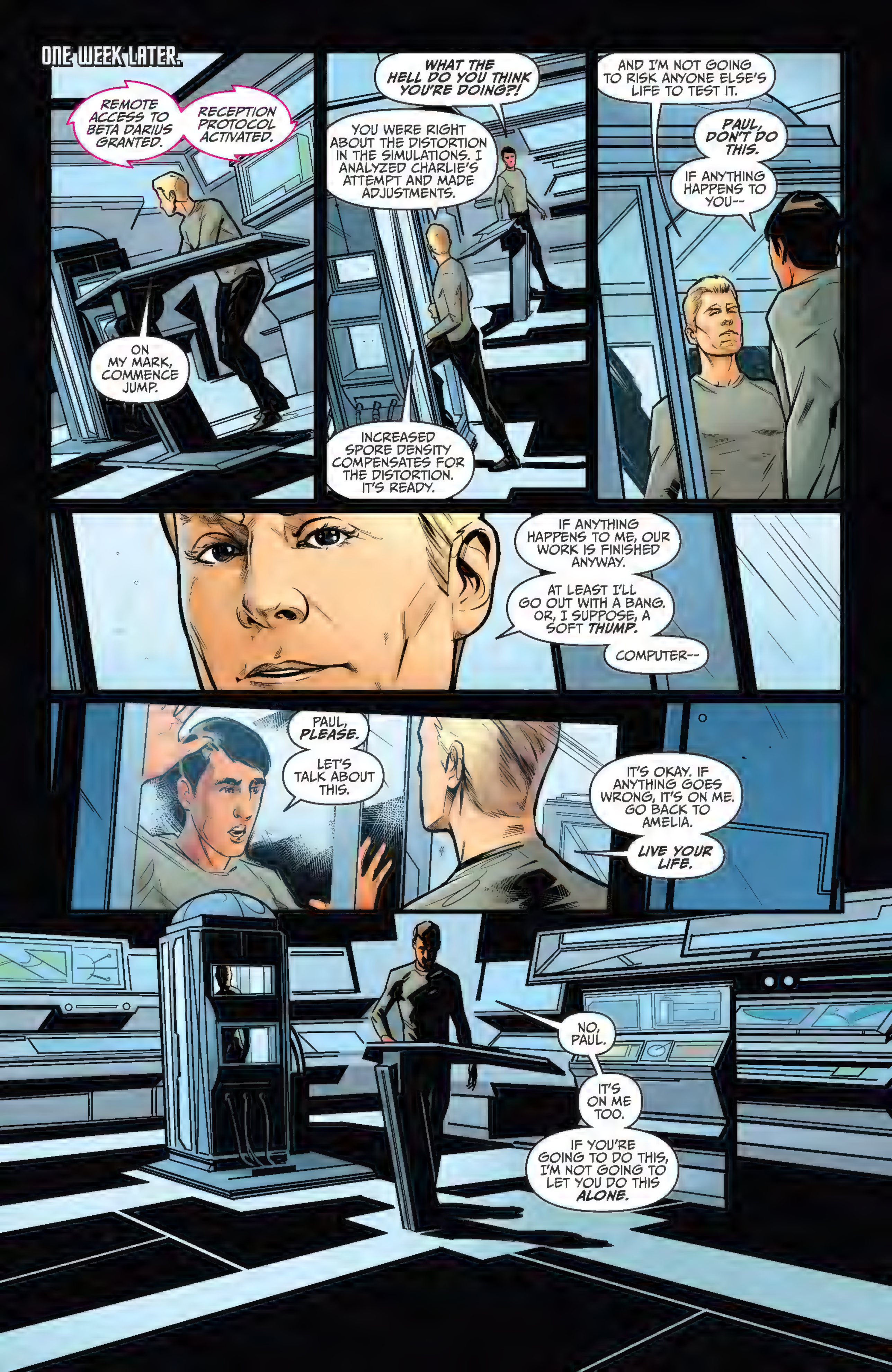
ME TOO.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, PAUL.


OH, I KNOW.
IT'S RIDICULOUS FOR ME TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF AN INEXPERIENCED ASSISTANT WHO DIDN'T APPRECIATE THE RISK HE WAS TAKING.
HE WAS FOOLISH, AND IT KILLED HIM.


SO WHY CAN'T I BREATHE EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT HIM?


BECAUSE UNDERNEATH YOUR SCIENTIFICALLY DETACHED FACADE BEATS A LOVING HEART.
GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO GRIEVE.

NO. THERE'S DATA TO ANALYZE AFTER CHARLIE'S JUMP.
DATA I'M GOING TO USE SO THAT HIS DEATH ISN'T IN VAIN.


ONE WEEK LATER.
REMOTE ACCESS TO BETA DARIUS GRANTED.
RECEPTION PROTOCOL ACTIVATED.
ON MY MARK, COMMENCE JUMP.
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE DISTORTION IN THE SIMULATIONS. I ANALYZED CHARLIE'S ATTEMPT AND MADE ADJUSTMENTS.
INCREASED SPORE DENSITY COMPENSATES FOR THE DISTORTION. IT'S READY.
AND I'M NOT GOING TO RISK ANYONE ELSE'S LIFE TO TEST IT.
PAUL, DON'T DO THIS.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU--
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, OUR WORK IS FINISHED ANYWAY.
AT LEAST I'LL GO OUT WITH A BANG. OR, I SUPPOSE, A SOFT THUMP.
COMPUTER--
PAUL, PLEASE.
LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS.
IT'S OKAY. IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, IT'S ON ME. GO BACK TO AMELIA.
LIVE YOUR LIFE.
NO, PAUL.
IT'S ON ME TOO.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO THIS, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO THIS ALONE.

GIVE THE WORD.
COMMENCE.
BAD NEWS.
YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME.
BETA DARIUS LAB

ALPHA CENTAURI.
NINE MONTHS LATER.

AS OUR RESEARCH SHOWS, HUMAN TRAVEL ACROSS THE MYCELIAL NETWORK IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, IT IS ***SAFE,*** WITH A MUCH FARTHER RANGE THAN CURRENT TRANSPORTER TECHNOLOGY CAN OFFER.

BUT CHALLENGES TO EVERYDAY TRAVEL USING THE MYCELIAL NETWORK REMAIN. CULTIVATION OF *PROTOTAXITES STELLAVIATORI* SPORES REQUIRE TIME AND RESOURCES THAT MAKE IT IMPRACTICAL.

THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR RESEARCH WILL FOCUS ON THAT CHALLENGE, AND IF OUR PAST SUCCESS IS ANY INDICATION...

"...WE'LL BE BACK HERE AGAIN NEXT YEAR WITH EXCITING NEWS."

CONGRATULATIONS. TRULY GROUNDBREAKING WORK!

INDEED. CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH.

I WONDERED WHEN STARFLEET WOULD COME CALLING AGAIN.

LOOKING TO WEAPONIZE.

NO. NOT WEAPONS.

WE'RE THINKING ***PROPULSION.***

YOU MEAN LIKE...

...SHIPS?

"NOT JUST ONE SHIP..."
...ONE FOR EACH OF US!
WHAT IF I DON'T WANT MY OWN SHIP?
WHAT IF I JUST WANT TO STAY ON THE GROUND? IN MY LAB? WITHOUT STARFLEET LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER?
TWO SHIPS SHARING RESEARCH AT THE SAME TIME, WITH ALL OF STARFLEET'S RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL, MEANS THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE MIGHT DISCOVER.
MAYBE LIMITS ARE A GOOD THING. MAYBE THE SAFEST THING TO DO IS MAKE SURE THAT STARFLEET NEVER GETS THEIR HANDS ON OUR WORK.
PAUL.
I LEFT AMELIA. WE'RE SPLITTING UP.
AND I'M TAKING STARFLEET'S OFFER WITH OR WITHOUT YOU.
IT'S GOING TO BE TWO SHIPS, OR IT'S GOING TO BE ONE.

THREE DAYS LATER.

COMPUTER...

...BEGIN PREP FOR DEEP FREEZE.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO ***DESTROY*** OUR SAMPLES TO STOP STARFLEET FROM ACQUIRING THEM?

MYCELIAL EXPANSION.

WHAT?

WE'VE SPENT YEARS BEATING OUR HEADS ABOUT HOW TO TRANSPORT MORE THAN ONE ORGANISM AT A TIME.

WE CAME UP WITH THE FRAMEWORK OF MYCELIAL EXPANSION, WHICH WOULD AFFECT A WIDER DEFINED AREA. LIKE, SAY, A STARSHIP.

WE JUST HAVEN'T HAD THE WHEREWITHAL TO TEST IT.

NOW WE DO.

STARFLEET WOULD EVENTUALLY PUT OUR RESEARCH TO USE ANYWAY. AT LEAST THIS WAY WE CAN HAVE SOME SAY OVER HOW IT'S DONE.

SO NO. I'M NOT FREEZING THE GARDEN TO KILL IT. THAT WOULD BE A CRIME AGAINST SCIENCE.

I'M FREEZING OUR SPECIMENS FOR TRANSPORT TO OUR RESPECTIVE DESTINATIONS.

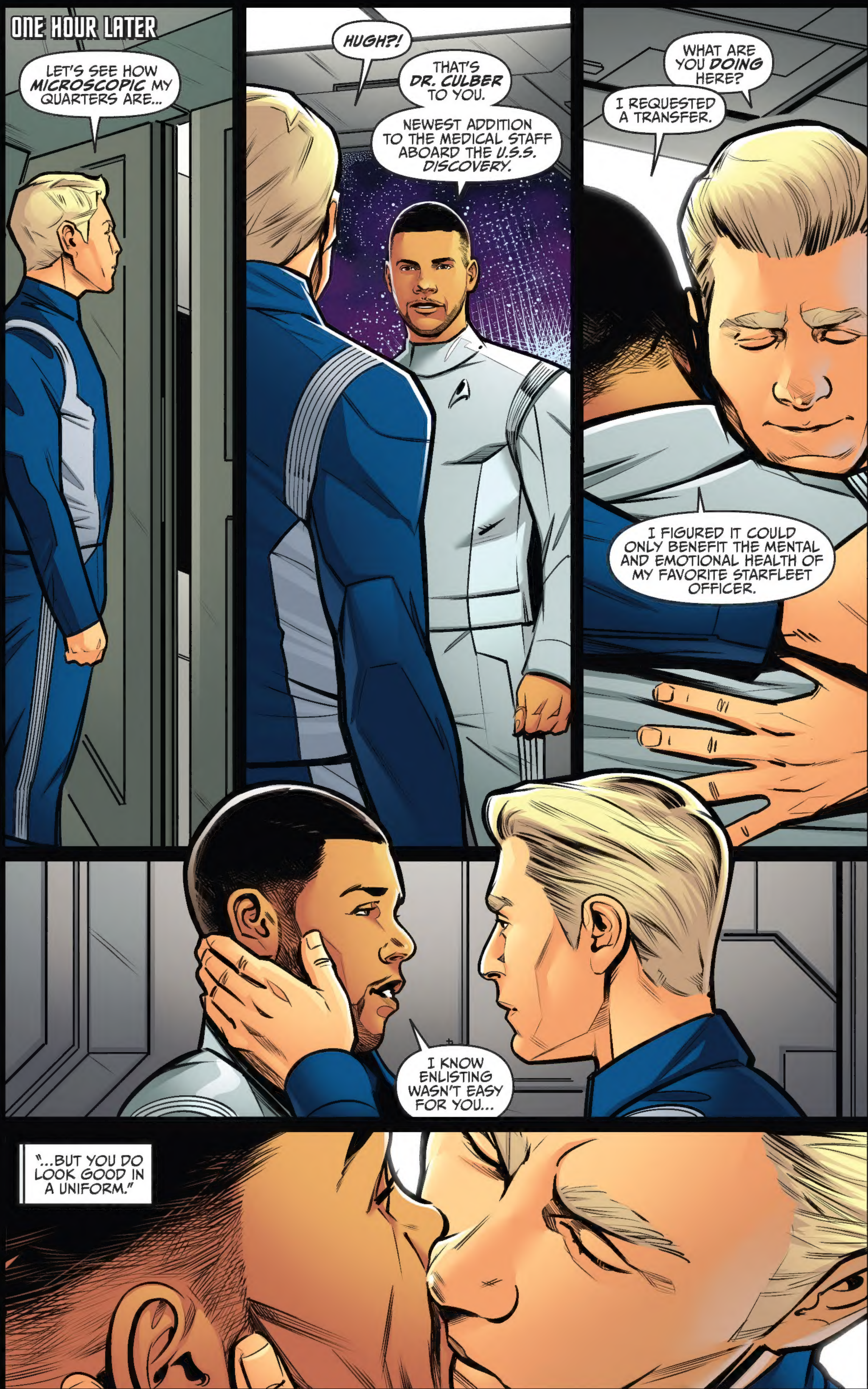
THANK YOU. I KNOW THIS WASN'T AN EASY DECISION FOR YOU.

OH, DON'T BE FOOLED.

I'LL WORK OUT MY FRUSTRATIONS BY TROUNCING YOU IN THE RACE TO PERFECT A ***SPORE DRIVE.***

"MAY THE BEST ASTROMYCOLOGIST WIN."
USS DISCOVERY
NCC-1031
LIEUTENANT STAMETS!
WELCOME TO DISCOVERY!
PUT THIS IN MY QUARTERS.
YESSIR.
RIGHT THIS WAY, FOLLOW ME!
LATER.
I NEED TO TALK TO THE CAPTAIN.

LIEUTENANT STAMETS!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME TO GET USED TO THIS.
OH, THE LIGHTS? WELL, I HAVE A CONDITION THAT--
NO.
BEING CALLED "LIEUTENANT."
AH. THE RELUCTANT ENLISTEE.
STILL, I HOPE EVERYTHING HAS MET YOUR EXPECTATIONS SO FAR?
HARDLY. WHY HAVE ALL OF MY STAFF REQUESTS BEEN TURNED DOWN?
I CAN'T WORK WITHOUT A TEAM THAT I CHOOSE.
I CAN RELATE. WE'RE BOTH GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT WE'RE GIVEN WHEN IT COMES TO CREW AND EQUIPMENT.
IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THAT, THERE'S STILL TIME FOR YOU TO UNENLIST.
AT THE VERY LEAST GIVE ME ONE OF MY PREFERRED CANDIDATES.
I KNOW YOU SAID NO CADETS, BUT SHE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY AND CAPABLE ENGINEER WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH MY WORK IN ASTROMYCOLOGY.
I WON'T SERVE WITHOUT HER.


ONE HOUR LATER
LET'S SEE HOW MICROSCOPIC MY QUARTERS ARE...
HUGH?!
THAT'S DR. CULBER TO YOU.
NEWEST ADDITION TO THE MEDICAL STAFF ABOARD THE U.S.S. DISCOVERY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I REQUESTED A TRANSFER.
I FIGURED IT COULD ONLY BENEFIT THE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF MY FAVORITE STARFLEET OFFICER.
I KNOW ENLISTING WASN'T EASY FOR YOU...
"...BUT YOU DO LOOK GOOD IN A UNIFORM."

ONE MONTH LATER.

LIEUTENANT STAMETS!!

OH. SORRY. WAS THAT TOO LOUD?

IT WAS TOO LOUD.

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I'M CADET SYLVIA TILLY! I'M THE ONE WHO WROTE YOU ALL THOSE LETTERS OVER THE YEARS ABOUT YOUR WORK, AND--

AND--

--AND JUST, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS *OPPORTUNITY!*

"OPPORTUNITY" BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD.

OPPORTUNITY IS NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS.

ONLY THE WORK CAN DO THAT.

SO GET TO IT.

YES SIR. RIGHT AWAY SIR.

THE BEGINNING.

OPEN CHANNELS

Welcome back to another fantastic installment of "Open Channels," our monthly exploration of the amazing, expanding world of *Trek* comics here at IDW Publishing. March is here, and as we leave the wastes of winter behind to boldly go into spring, we've got two great *Trek* titles to brighten your days.

Cover by Josh Hood

Starting your month off, we've got *Star Trek: Boldly Go* #18 from writers Mike Johnson and Ryan Parrott with art by Josh Hood and colors by Jason Lewis. In the climactic final chapter of the epic "I.D.I.C." saga, James Tiberius Kirk faces the greatest challenge of his life... and the fates of infinite realities hang in the balance! Prepare yourselves as our epic event "I.D.I.C." reaches its grand conclusion in what's also the series finale of *Star Trek: Boldly Go*!

Cover by Yoshi Yoshitani

Cover by Angel Hernandez

Then, transport yourself into adventure with the *Star Trek Discovery* Annual 2018 from writers Kirsten Beyer & Mike Johnson, artist Angel Hernandez and colorist Mark Roberts. The *U.S.S. Discovery* is a ship unlike any the galaxy's ever seen, developing tech based on an unstable mycelial network...

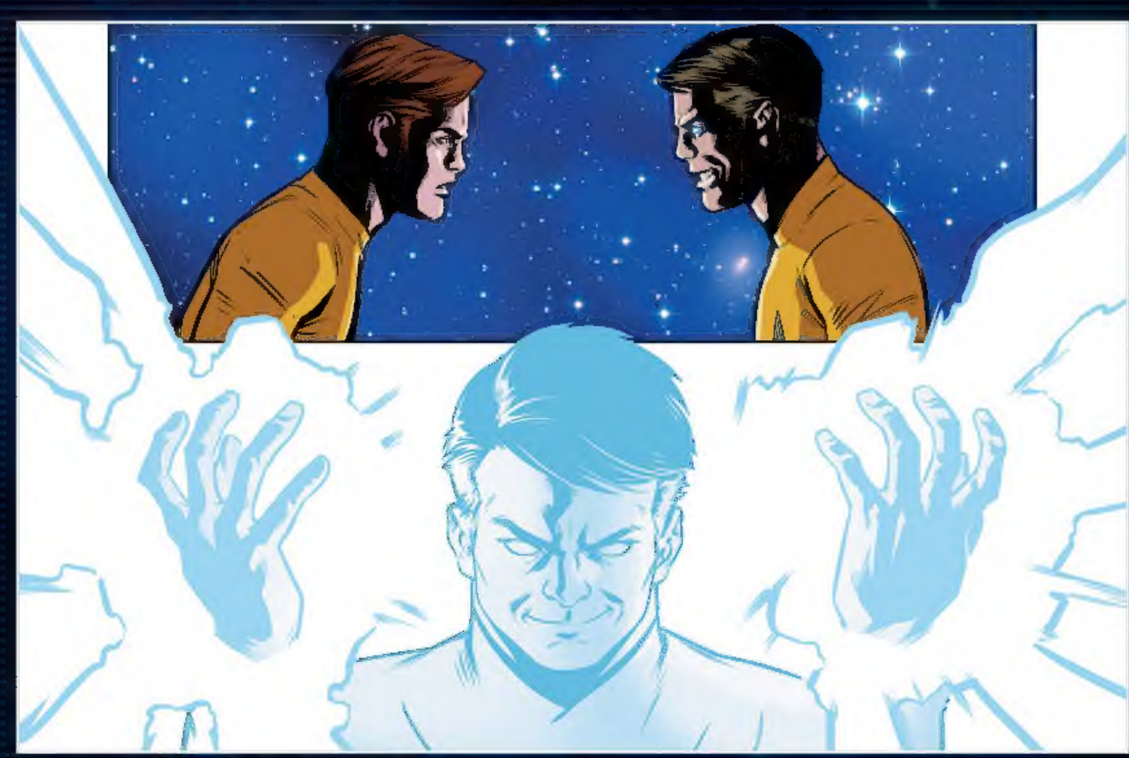
Cover by George Caultsoudas

and it is all in the hands of Science Officer Lt. Stamets, tasked with perfecting it to win the war against the Klingons. Don't miss this amazing story that ties directly into the hit CBS All Access show!

If you haven't heard the news yet, last month brought the announcement of the new *Mirror Broken: Through the Mirror* limited series, a continuation of last year's smash *Star Trek TNG: Mirror Broken* miniseries from writers Scott and David Tipton and artist J.K. Woodward. Featuring main stories penned by the Tiptons and drawn by a rotating cast of exciting artists, *Through the Mirror* will also feature backup stories painted by J.K Woodward that will further explore the mysteries of the Mirror Universe that fans have come to love. And as a special treat for you this month, we've got an interview with Marcus To, one of the artists who will be taking you into the Mirror Universe this spring!

Cover by JK Woodward

Marcus is known for his work on DC titles such as *Red Robin*, *Huntress*, *Nightwing*, and *Batwing*, as well as his creator-owned book *Joyride*, published by Boom! Studios. He made his IDW *Trek* debut with last month's *Boldly Go* #17, and we had the chance to catch up with him as he began work on his installment of the *Through the Mirror* miniseries. Enjoy!



1. Are you a longtime *Star Trek* fan? Do you have a favorite incarnation of the show?

I'm a relatively new fan to Star Trek. *I started with* Voyager *in college and really got hooked on all of them when I marathoned every series while working. Even though I love every series, I would have to say* Voyager *is my favorite; it's the one that got me into* Trek.

2. You're known primarily for your work on superhero comics. How did you come to draw *Star Trek*?

After my work on my creator owned series called *Joyride* (with co creators Jackson Lanzing and Collin Kelly) which was inspired by *Star Trek*, I had lunch with the editor of the book, Dafna Pleban, and we just talked about our love of all things *Trek*. At that meeting, she helped put me in contact with Sarah Gaydos, who helped bring me aboard.

3. In terms of your artistic process, do you primarily use pen and ink, or do you draw digitally?

I used to draw everything in pen and ink but have in the past year transitioned to fully digital. I believe that it is a tool that has helped me grow as an artist.

4. Is there a specific *Star Trek* character or technology that's your favorite to draw?

I love the Ferengi. They're so much fun to draw.

5. Your first issue of IDW's *Star Trek* was *Boldly Go* #17, but it won't be the last. Is there anything you can tell us about future *Trek* tales you'll be drawing for IDW?

At the moment I am working on a story involving the Mirror Universe and Worf. It's been so much fun.

6. And finally, if you could join any of the *Trek* crews, which one would it be? *TOS, TNG, DS9, Voyager, Kelvin,* or *Discovery*?

I'd have to say TNG. *I believe that* TNG *is everything we hope someday to be. Working out our differences with understanding and compassion. That's the world I would love to live in.*

Thanks Marcus! If you haven't picked up *Boldly Go* #17 yet, it's still available both in comic shops and online. You don't want to miss it! And get ready for more of Marcus's great work once *Through the Mirror* is in stores.

We've got lots more great *Trek* tales coming your way next month, so join us back here in April! Until then, send us your questions, comments, or tell us what you love about IDW's *Star Trek* titles, as well as *Star Trek* in general. You can tweet me at @sarahgaydos, or email us at letters@idwpublishing.com. We'd love to hear from you!

See you next month...
Sarah Gaydos
Group Editor